



**U. S. Consulate General, Merida**  
Press release

## **U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Mexico process two million visa applications in Fiscal Year 2012**

Merida, Yucatan. September 27, 2012. - Ambassador Anthony Wayne and the Principal Officers and other leaders at the nine visa-issuing Consulates General in Mexico today celebrated World Tourism Day and commemorated the adjudication of two million visitor visa applications by the United States Mission to Mexico during the current fiscal year, a nearly 30 percent increase over last year. This high level of productivity was made possible by new processes implemented within the past year, primarily the introduction of off-site Applicant Service Centers (ASCs) and the extension of the Interview Waiver Program for visa renewals, making the visa application process faster, easier, and more efficient than it has ever been for Mexican applicants..

In Merida, Consul Sonya Tsiros hosted a ceremony in the Consulate's visa waiting room, the center of the Consulate's efforts to expand travel and tourism between the U.S. and Mexico. The Secretary of Tourism for the Yucatan, Juan Jose Martin Pacheco, was the guest of honor.

The Consul Tsiros thanked Secretary Martin Pacheco and commented that, thanks to the efforts of both countries to promote tourism and travel, more Mexicans visited the United States, and more Americans visited Mexico, than any other country. The Consul also thanked visa applicant Alfonso Moreno, who was selected as Merida's representative of the 2 millionth visas adjudication.

We remind all potential travelers to apply for their visa well in advance, as a small percentage of cases require additional time to process. If you are considering traveling during the winter holidays, now is the ideal time to apply, since we have many appointments available. The first step in applying for any visa is to visit the [Consulate's website](#), clicking on "visas" in the upper-left part of the screen, and then following the step-by-step instructions. Applicants may easily schedule appointments and pay fees through our convenient online service and call centers. The payment of visa fees can be made in a variety of ways: online or on the telephone by credit card, or at a local bank.

